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**KINGSBRIDGE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

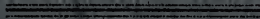


REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937



KINGSBRIDGE :

J. R. GILL & SON, LTD., "GAZETTE" OFFICE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health's Report for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1937

Medical Officer of Health—W. C. SMALES,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health—W. H. COWPER,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—E. GELLENDER, A.R.S.I.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,032.

Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to the Rate Books—976.

Rateable Value—£20,307.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—(estimated) £80 : 9 : 5.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce. Unemployment has not had any prejudicial effect on the general health of the community.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—Total, 32 ; Male, 15 ; Female, 17.

Live (Legitimate)—Male, 15 ; Female, 16.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—10.6.

Live Births (Illegitimate)—Male, Nil ; Female, 1.

Still Births—Nil.

Deaths—48. Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population—15.8.

Adjusted Death Rate—11.376.

Death (from Puerperal causes)—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births—Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—Nil.

The conditions of occupation and of environment on the whole have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer, and School Medical Inspector, Devon County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional). One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

Provision of Antitoxin.—Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarletinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunization of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

The South Hams Cottage Hospital provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:—

Men's Ward	...	...	6 beds
Women's Ward	...	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	...	2
Private Wards	...	...	2—One bed each

It is supported by voluntary effort.

56 cases were admitted from Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke.

Isolation Hospital.—None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth. The Council have also an arrangement with the Paignton Urban District Council by which infectious cases requiring hospital treatment can be sent to their Isolation Hospital.

The arrangements referred to are provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63, of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

Nursing in the Home.—The Kingsbridge Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

REPORT FROM NURSE MORRIS.

Year ending September 30th, 1937.

New Patients, Number of	...	...	182
Surgical	...	...	89
Medical	...	...	77
			<hr/> 166
Maternity	...	...	5
Midwifery	...	...	11
			<hr/> 16
Nursing Visits	...	...	2751
Ante Natal	...	...	262
Casuals	...	...	126
			<hr/> 3339
Infant Welfares	...	...	12

Midwives.—Registration and supervision exercised by the County Council.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre.—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

No. of Openings.	Mothers present.	Infants present	Children 1-5 years
18	384	113	423

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Diseases.	Total Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	4	0	0

Hospital Cost—Nil

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

Age Period :

5 to 10 years	0
10 to 20 „	2
20 to 25 „	0
25 to 35 „	2
35 to 45 „	0
45 to 55 „	0
55 to 70 „	0

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.—The water supply is satisfactory in all respects and there is nothing to add to the previous reports.

**TYPICAL ANALYSIS OF KINGSBRIDGE AND SALCOMBE
WATER BOARD WATER.**

Sanitary District—Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board.

Source of Sample—Main Supply.

REPORT

Chemical (Results expressed as parts per 100,000)

Hardness as calcium carbonate

Temporary 0.2	Permanent 1.4	...	Total 1.6
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Chlorides, as Chlorine	...	1.3
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Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	Nil
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Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen	...	0.0028
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Nitrates, as nitrogen	...	0.14
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Nitrities, as nitrogen	...	Nil
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Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°c)	...	0.011
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Metals—lead, copper, zinc—absent

Remarks—Sample clear and free from sediment.

Bacteriological

Total organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37° C) 2 per c.c.

„ „ „ „ (3 days at 20° C) 5 per c.c.

B.Coli present in — absent in 100 c.c.

Conclusions—This water is of an excellent degree of organic and bacteriological purity.

(Signed) T. LAWSON MCEWAN,
County Bacteriologist

Drainage and Sewerage.—There has been no important extensions to the existing system which is satisfactory. The whole of the built up area is connected with the main drainage system.

Watercourses.—Great difficulty has been experienced through watercourses becoming silted up and causing flooding of premises. There are many different owners (over 50) of properties abutting the watercourses. It is hoped however that a solution may soon be arrived at for cleaning the watercourses and keeping them in a satisfactory condition.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no closets on the conservancy system within the built-up area.

Public Cleansing.—The collection and disposal of refuse is satisfactory.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of all public elementary and secondary schools in the District are good.

Milk Supply.—During the summer the Council became very concerned about the number of samples which were reported as unsatisfactory under the Methylene Blue Test. Much time and attention has been devoted to this question, and generally speaking methods of production have improved. It is very discouraging however to have so many samples failing to pass the test for cleanliness. The Methylene Blue Test by increasing the time of keeping of the milk makes this test a more exacting one and more likely to show up imperfections of technique in production. Close co-operation is maintained with the County and Rural Authorities with regard to milk supplies.

HOUSING.

No. of houses not in all respects fit for habitation—40.

Informal notices to remedy—4; Results 4.

Statutory—7; Results 7.

Closing order made—Nil.

No. of new houses required for working classes—30.

New houses built for working classes—Local authority 18; private enterprise, nil.

Slum Clearance—Clearance Areas, 4. Houses represented, 11. No. Improvement Areas, Nil.

Housing Rural Workers Act—Nil.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of Houses inspected, etc. ... 53

(b) Number of Inspections ... 133

(2) (a) Number of Houses recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 28

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 68

(3) Number of Houses found to be in a dangerous state ... 28

(4) Number of Houses found unfit for habitation ... 12

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit ... 8

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3

(2) Number rendered fit after service (to date by Owners or Local Authority) ... Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	1
(2) Number remedied by Owners	..	...	...	1

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of Houses demolished	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted under Section 11 (3) Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	7

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936*

4. (a) (i) <i>Number of Dwellings overcrowded</i>	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	22
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	1
(c) Number of cases relieved	...	...	...	5
Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	28
(d) Cases of overcrowding after abatement	...	...	...	Nil
(e) The cases of overcrowding are few and are not of a serious nature in the District.				

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The four areas were :

Coronet Place Nos. 1, 2, 3	...	3 houses
Union Road, Nos. 1, 2	...	2 houses
Duke Street, Nos 5, 5A	...	2 houses
Annis Place, Nos. 1, 2, 3 {	...	4 houses
Ebrington Street No. 40 }		

In addition the Council have decided to accept Undertakings (Housing Act 1936 Section 11) with regard to :

Duke Street	...	Nos. 2, 4
Duke Street	...	No. 15 {
Church Street	...	No. 1 }
Duke Street	...	Nos. 16, 18

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year Ending December, 1937.

Food Supply. Milk.—No. of Cow-keepers or Dairymen on registers: Retail 12, Wholesale 4. Number removed from Register 1.

	Found Satisfactory
No. of samples taken : Cleanliness	67 18
Tuberculosis	13 13
No. of Dairies and Cowsheds in the District—	18
No. registered—	16

Passed as complying with Milk and Dairies Order—13

No. of Inspections: Dairies—25, Cowsheds—18

No. of Cowsheds with impervious floors—13

Unsatisfactory drainage—2, Bad Lighting—3

Bad ventilation and Water supply—1

Methods for producing clean milk are fairly satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.— No. Registered—Nil ; Licensed—3 ; Public—Nil.

Notice of slaughtering being duly carried out.

No. of carcasses wholly or partly condemned: Cattle 1 (Tuberculosis) ; Pigs—3 (Tuberculosis) ; Sheep—Nil.

Amount of food destroyed by voluntary surrender—136 lbs.

Method of disposal of condemned meat—Burnt.

No. of Inspections—23.

No accurate information is available of the number of animals killed.

Bakehouses.—No. in district—5 ; No. of inspections 5 ; general conditions—good.

Sale of Food.—All Butcher's Shops have glass fronts. Notices are being displayed to assist the prevention of contamination. Transport of food is satisfactory. Systematic inspections of food stores are not carried out.

Food and Drugs Act.—This Act is administered by the Police and the number of samples taken during the year were as follows:—

Samples	Results
6	All genuine

Water Supply.—There are no public wells. The water is under constant examination.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS INSPECTIONS.

Particulars.	No. found.	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	7	2	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Investigation is made as soon as possible into all cases of Infectious Disease notified and disinfection carried out.

The methods of disinfection employed are Formaldehyde Spray and Fumigation.

No. of houses disinfected:—

Ordinary Infectious Diseases	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	2
Verminous conditions	...	Nil

Sputum cups are not supplied.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied.

Overcrowding.—One case dealt with by removing to a larger Council house.

Drainage.—The drainage system is satisfactory.

Scavenging.—Methods of disposal are quite satisfactory.

Arrangements have been made for the removal of house refuse.

The refuse tip is managed in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—Poison distributed free.

Offensive Trades.—Nil.

Nuisances.—

No. of complaints received—18

No. of informal notices —13 Results effective—13

Statutory Notices — 3 „ „ — 3

Pollution of Rivers.—No action taken or necessary.

Schools.—No. in District and inspected—5.

No. found defective and remedied by Statutory Notice—1.

Bye-Laws in Force.—New Street and Buildings.

Nuisances.

Clearing of Footpaths.

House Refuse.

Slaughterhouses.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

June, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health.

